

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 MCT-01 SSM-03 /094 W

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R 091014Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9473

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: PNC PRESIDENT FAHHUM SPEAKS OUT ON SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN  
RELATIONS

1. SEPT. 8 SYRIAN PRESS CONTAINED LENGTHY REPORT ON MEETING  
OF FRANCO-SYRIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY DELEGATION WITH APLESTINIAN  
NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT KHALID FAHHUM PREVIOUS DAY. FAHHUM  
REIVEWED CURRENT EVENTS IN LEBANON POINTING OUT THAT PALESTINIAN  
NATIONAL CHARTER PROVIDES FOR PALESTINIAN NONINTERFERENCE IN  
DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANY ARAB COUNTRY, SINCE IT STATES THAT  
PRINCIPAL TASK OF PLO IS TO "LIBERATE THE USURPED LAND AND  
RESIST THE EXPANSION OF THE RACIST ZIONIST ENTITY."

2. FAHHUM EXPLAINED THAT UNDERLINED CAUSE OF LEBANESE EVENTS  
WAS STEP-BY-STEP POLICY WHICH HAD LED TO SINAI ACCORD. PLO,  
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HE SAID, REJECTED ALL PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS, AND

PALESTINIAN PEOPLE STOOD FIRM IN OPPOSING SINAI ACCORD  
WHOSE PRINCIPAL AIM WAS TO OBLITERATE PALESTINAIN CAUSE.

3. ON PLO RELATIONS WITH SYRIA, FAHHUM SAID THAT  
PALESTINIANS WISHED TO MAINTAIN STRONG AND SOLID  
RELATIONS WITH SARG. HE PRAISED PRESIDENT ASAD'S  
REJECTION OF SEPARATE SETTLEMENT OF QUESTION OF OCCUPIED  
GOLAN, CONTRASTING THIS "POSITIVE" SYRIAN ATTITUDE WITH  
THAT OF PRESIDENT SADAT.

4. SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS, FAHHUM ASSERTED, INEVITABLY  
DEPENDS ON RETURN TO THE SYRIAN INITIATIVE. SYRIA, HE  
ADDED, HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN COUNTRY MOST CLOSELY  
ASSOCIATED WITH PALESTINIAN CUASE. MAINTAINING FIRM SYRIAN-  
PALESTINIAN RELATIONS WAS, HE CONCLUDED, "A QUESTION OF  
LIFE AND DEATH FOR US."

5. COMMENT: FAHHUM'S SENTIMENTS REGARDING LONG-TERM  
IMPORTANCE OF SOUND SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS TO FUTURE  
OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE ARE, WE BELIEVE, WIDELY SHARED BY  
PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN SYRIA. SEVERAL PROMINENT PALESTINIANS  
HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THEY BELIEVE PLO MADE SERIOUS MISTAKE IN  
ALLOWING ITSELF TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LEBANESE CRISIS AND,  
PARTICULARLY, TO BECOME ALLIED WITH JUMBLATT. THESE  
PALESTINIANS, TO BE SURE, ARE GRATING UNDER ADDITIONAL  
RESTRICTIONS WHICH CURRENT SYRIAN-PALESTINAIN DIFFERENCES  
HAVE IMPOSED UPON THEM; BUT FEW, IF ANY, HAVE ANY INTENTION  
OF TRYING TO LEAVE SYRIA. MANY IN FACT ARE SERVING  
AS POINTS OF REFUGE FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES FROM  
LEBANON. WHILE THERE ARE THOSE WHO CRITICIZE FAHHUM  
AS HAVING BECOME A SYRIAN STOOGE, AT SAME TIME HE HAS  
SERVED TO KEEP DOOR OPEN BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND SYRIAN

LEADERSHIP AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY USEFUL ROLE  
COMENTING THE EVENTUAL PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN RECONCILIATION.  
PELLETREAU

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, PALESTINIANS, INTERVENTION, PEACE PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC06019  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760340-0986  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760979/aaaacpet.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PNC PRESIDENT FAHHUM SPEAKS OUT ON SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE, PLO, PNC, (FAHHUM, KHALID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006